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They have all been carried out. No. 3 had a slight hemorrhage, but is all right now. Dr. Swinterton was called."

"Well, go to the operating room with the case, and then go to luncheon. Why, you have not started a chart! Miss Brown, don't you know the chart has to go to the operating room with the patient? Well, get the patient on the cart while I start the chart."

As the little Junior, feeling older by years instead of by thirty minutes, hurried down the hall by the side of the operative case, someone opened the workroom door, which emitted a cloud of blue smoke and the unmistakable, penetrating odor of burned rubber!

"Oh, ye gods and little fishes!" gasped the weary Junior. "That catheter! I'll hear about that when I return at four."

As she passed the bulletin board on the way to the dining room, she smiled whimsically as she formulated a little notice which was never posted: "Lost, strayed, or stolen, a healthy, hearty young appetite in the last half hour."

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO AMERICAN NURSES

BY ANNA HAMILTON, M.D.

*Florence Nightingale School, Bordeaux, France*

Since Miss Palmer's death I have many times tried to write and express all my deep sympathy and all my gratitude towards her memory, but I have been terribly overworked all the year and always waiting for a little leisure time. Days and months went by and at last I broke down. Now sickness is over and gives me, as a convalescent, more time for letter writing than I have had for years.

I know that it is thanks to Miss Palmer, that this JOURNAL published many papers on the Florence Nightingale School, Bordeaux, France, and that this has been surely a great help towards making known the wants of the school and encouraging the nurses to subscribe to the "Memorial Fund." Miss Palmer was much interested in our school by the short address I was called upon to give at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the three National Nursing Associations, held in New York on the 17th of January, 1919. Miss Palmer came to see me later on at the Presbyterian Hospital and stayed until after eleven o'clock at night, always asking more information about the school and the general nursing situation in France. She also wanted to know why the long war had not induced a great many French girls to become trained nurses. The fact is, the Red Cross here has been for thirty years giving away thousands of certificates to amateur

nurses and, their appointment when the war broke out, to the most important posts in hospitals, has just brought on the opposite results, to what happened in the United States, thanks to the wise and clever influence of professional nurses, on the American Red Cross. Many American nurses noted how our war hospitals were managed, but in those hospitals, few people knew what was missing. Doctors here seldom know what are well managed institutions; the amateur nurses still less; and the patients had no notion things could have been otherwise (as hospitals even in peace time were often worse). In fact there was no one to point out the need for real nurses and thus induce girls to be properly trained, as was the case in America. Of course, French girls, not knowing what is proper training, find it more convenient to go in for short courses, where all the world and his wife go! It is quite a perplexing novelty in this country, to have seen thousands of professional nurses coming over from America, enrolled by the Red Cross or the Army, disciplined and competent, and yet ladies! Here professional nurses are looked down upon, because they have a salary, and when the war began, many of our graduates had to choose between going under the orders of an amateur Red Cross nurse, or not attending the wounded.

Miss Palmer understood that our school had the privilege of being the only French school having a general hospital of its own for the training of pupils, and that our institution has been known as an educational one these twenty years, so that it attracts girls who even pay for their board (as they would in college) and go through the regular training for nurses. To bring about these conditions in France, a hospital must not be under government rules or have a contract with a Sisterhood or with the Red Cross. Conditions which seem so simple and indispensable in American or English training schools are not thought much of in this country. The director of a school needs to be all powerful (on school and hospital) to establish the real training for the pupils. There are schools for nurses in almost all the large towns of France but without the training such as it is understood in America and England. It was Miss Palmer's idea (and my greatest wish) that by and by, our best graduates, after having had experience in our hospital and school, as head nurses and assistants, would establish other schools, having carefully gathered together all the conditions and the power to "make all things new" in an old institution! I must say that some of our graduates, who had never held posts in their "Alma Mater," tried to take charge of hospitals and have failed for lack of experience, to stand the fighting which always takes place in this country, either with the doctors, trustees, personnel, or pupils. Our graduates sometimes think that

because they have been pupils, they know all about the management of schools and hospitals and are ready for any responsibility,—but those who have been head nurses here, begin to think it is no easy matter to be responsible and the assistants feel they always want more experience.

Miss Palmer gave me much encouragement and she really helped me a great deal more than she could think, from month to month, by the way she mentioned the school and the "Memorial" in her editorials. The AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING has many times been put into the hands of trustees, doctors, subscribers of this hospital. But you know the tribe of St. Thomas is not extinct and it could not be believed that such a wonderful donation to build the school, could ever be done, especially by nurses! How could a set of women, with salaries, be able to subscribe the needed sum? It was foolish to expect it. In December, 1919, there was a prospect of selling the beautiful land, given by legacy to the hospital, where the school was to be built. I was nigh to despair when a most wonderful event happened in January, 1920: the parents of a graduate decided to buy the land for the same price which was offered; and make a gift of the estate to the hospital, *on condition it would never be sold!* This was done for the purpose that the school should be built there in those lovely surroundings, that the hospital might be taken there also, established on modern lines so as to make the training less tiring and altogether attract a great many girls to enter the school for the benefit of all French patients bye and bye.

You may fancy my joy, my deep thankfulness, for now it was impossible to say that it was rash not to sell this valuable land, healthy, sunny, just large enough, and buy a cheap one so as to have money over for building purposes. You cannot think how this point of view, held by many since January, 1915, when the legacy was known, made me have sleepless nights! The owner of the land, Mlle. Bose, had for thirteen years before her death, constantly (though secretly) spoken to me about her wish that the estate that she so much loved, would be bye and bye, for the benefit of our patients. Many times she said she depended on me to have our institution established at "Bagatelle." Thus it was that after struggling four years against the sale of the land, I gladly sailed to the United States on the request of Dr. Ladd and Miss Evelyn Walker of the American Red Cross, who thought that I might over there find help to develop our school, considering the great need for properly trained nurses in this country. I landed in New York on the 28th of December, 1918, and on the 30th, as the guest of Miss Anna C. Maxwell, had the privilege of dining with Miss Delano and Miss Nutting. We did not think this

was our last meeting with Jane Delano who, after her wonderful war service, thoroughly tired out, was sailing next day for France. She said she meant to visit the Bordeaux School, but alas! Her journey came to an end at Savenay where she died, on the battle field of nurses, in a war hospital. Another golden star was placed on the splendid American nurses' service flag.

My visit to the United States lasted ten weeks; some people seemed very interested in the Florence Nightingale School, but they left it where it stood, and many others did not care a bit about it and I felt very sad. All along this anxious journey, the welcome I had in hospitals was my greatest comfort and the kindness of the nurses helped me on and kept up my courage. What a wonderful insight I had into the world of nursing! It was indeed a privilege. I will never forget the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, where I found a home: the Johns Hopkins, and the Massachusetts General where I was greeted like an old friend; and the Henry Street Settlement, so cheery and interesting. Teachers College, at Columbia University, was my last wonder. But on the eve of sailing (March 11th, 1919), I met Miss Clara Noyes, who told me about the plans for the "Memorial" and wished for more information about our school. It was such comfort, just before sailing, to hear that the nurses of America wanted to help us!

On January 3rd, 1921, it was my privilege to receive in Bordeaux, Miss Clara Noyes and Miss Helen Scott Hay. They brought the news that the "Nurses' Memorial Fund" was accomplished, and that the home of the Florence Nightingale School could now be built. They saw the old hospital, the cramped nurses' quarters and "Bagatelle" waiting for everything!

We could scarcely express our gratefulness towards all the nurses who have done their most to achieve this wonderful result, but we hope that Miss Clara Noyes understood what we could not find words to say.

Our greatest wish is that the Florence Nightingale School on which will be inscribed, "American Nurses' Memorial," shall be up to the mark and that nurses coming over to Bordeaux may be proud to have built it as a tribute to those of their members who died in service during the World War.

The graduates of this school will thus continue forever the good service in which the American nurses were engaged when they fell.